

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00372 260910Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
HA-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 EUR-12 /105 W
-----043111 261210Z /50

R 260845Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2965
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0372

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJ: GERMAN RESEARCH REPORT ON WHITE ATTITUDES

REF: DURBAN 360

1. THE ARNOLD BERGSTRAESSER INSTITUTE'S REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICA (REFTEL) ALSO INCLUDED A POLL OF 1800 WHITES TO DETERMINE THEIR POLITICAL ATTITUDES. THEIR SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED OVER THE PERIOD 1974-1977 AND THUS INDICATES TRENDS AS WELL AS CURRENT ATTITUDES. ITS PRINCIPAL CONCLUSION IS THAT WHITES AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING AFRIKAANERS, ARE MORE AMENABLE TO CHANGE THAN HAD BEEN POPULARLY BELIEVED AND THAT THE TREND OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAS BEEN AWAY FROM APARTHEID AND TOWARD GREATER ACCEPTANCE OF BLACKS IN SOCIETY, BUSINESS AND POLITICS. HOWEVER, THE STUDY PESSIMISTICALLY CONCLUDED THAT WHILE WHITE ATTITUDES ARE CHANGING, THEY ARE CHANGING MORE SLOWLY THAN BLACK ATTITUDES AND THUS THE ATTITUDINAL GAP BETWEEN THE RACES IS WIDENING.

2. SOME OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT ARE:

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WHITE SOCIAL AND BUSINESS ATTITUDES:

--- 72 PERCENT FAVOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK (UP FROM 62 PERCENT IN 1974);

--- 52 PERCENT BELIEVE BLACKS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO DO ANY TYPE OF WORK (UP FROM 41 PERCENT IN 1974);

--- 37 PERCENT HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BLACKS' SUPERVISING WHITES (UP FROM 25 PERCENT IN 1974);

--- 61 PERCENT FAVOR THE EDUCATION OF PETTY APARTHEID (UP FROM 44 PERCENT IN 1974).

HOWEVER,

--- ONLY 9 PERCENT FAVOR INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGES (NO CHANGE FROM 1974);

--- ONLY 13 PERCENT FAVOR RESIDENTIAL INTEGRATION (UP FROM 9 PERCENT IN 1974).

POLITICAL ATTITUDES:

--- OF WHITES QUESTION ABOUT THE FUTURE,

17 PERCENT HAVE NO ANXIETY

26 PERCENT HAVE SLIGHT ANXIETY

30 PERCENT HAVE PRONOUNCED ANXIETY

27 PERCENT HAVE VERY STRONG ANXIETY

IN MOST CASES THE AFRIKAANER IS SOMEWHAT MORE ANXIOUS THAN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKER.

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--- 74 PERCENT OF WHITES SAID THEY WOULD FIGHT, WHATEVER THE RISKS, IF THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVE;

--- 80 PERCENT BELIEVE THE THREAT TO THE WHITE POSITION WILL BECOME MORE SERIOUS;

--- 67 PERCENT AGREED THEIR CHILDREN WOULD LIKELY NOT ENJOY AS HIGH A STANDARD OF LIVING AS THEY DO;

--- POWER SHARING IS FAVORED BY 33 PERCENT OF WHITES (UP FROM 23 PERCENT IN 1974);

--- 56 PERCENT FAVOR A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE FOR BLACKS (UP FROM 36 PERCENT IN 1974);

--- 76 PERCENT OF WHITES FAVORED INDEPENDENT HOMELANDS (DOWN FROM 82 PERCENT IN 1974).

3. SOME CONCLUSIONS THE RESEARCHERS DREW FROM THE DATA WERE:

--- THE WHITE POLITICAL OPPOSITION IS IRRELEVANT. IT IS THE

NATIONALIST LEADERSHIP WHICH IS LOOKED TO FOR POLITICAL DIRECTION
BY MOST PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO DO NOT VOTE FOR THE NATS.

--- WHITES SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE AND WOULD FOLLOW THEIR
LEADERS EVEN IF THEY LED THEM TOWARD MORE RADICAL CHANGE.

--- THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE DISCERNABLE "BACKLASH" AMONG WHITES
TO INCREASED BLACK RESTLESSNESS IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

--- HOWEVER, WHITE AND BLACK PERCEPTIONS OF PROBLEMS AND
SOLUTIONS ARE FAR APART AND WHITES ARE UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT
THE TYPE OF CHANGES DESIRED BY MOST BLACKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0652
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780621/aaaaasih.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4241782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DURBAN 360
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2213888
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN RESEARCH REPORT ON WHITE ATTITUDES
TAGS: PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4241782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014